

CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1 1. A method of coding image data including the
2 steps of
3 testing for coefficient values requiring more
4 than eight bits to be uniquely coded, and
5 using a flag in at least one block of data to
6 indicate if all said coefficient values in said
7 block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any
8 requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 coefficient values are DCT coefficients.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein said DCT
2 coefficients are AC DCT coefficients.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 testing step is performed once per image.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 testing step is performed once per block.
- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 1 including the
2 further set of using another flag in a block of data
3 to indicate if any ZRLs are present.

- 1 7. A data format including
2 a first pair of bytes representing a block
3 number, a Klast value and at least one flag
4 indicating if all said coefficient values in said
5 block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any
6 requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded,
7 a second pair of bytes respectively
8 representing an R/S value and a coefficient value.
- 1 8. A data format as recited in claim 7, further
2 including
3 at least one additional pair of bytes including
4 a EOB byte and a padding byte.
- 1 9. A data format as recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said first pair of bytes further includes
3 another flag indicating if any runs of
4 consecutive zero-valued coefficients greater than
5 sixteen are present in said block.